



U.S. Department of Justice

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **For Information Contact:**

#### **Public Affairs**

(202) 252-6933

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/dc/news/2011/apr/news.html>

## **District Man Pleads Guilty to Obstruction of Justice, Other Charges After Threatening to Shoot Girlfriend and Family - Defendant Was Recorded Telling Victim What to Say to Authorities -**

WASHINGTON - Charles Smoke, 22, of Washington, D.C., has pled guilty to felony charges stemming from threats he made earlier this year to shoot his girlfriend and her family, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Smoke pled guilty on July 15, 2011 in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia to charges of obstruction of justice, felony threats to do bodily harm, and felony contempt. He is to be sentenced September 23, 2011 by the Honorable Ronna L. Beck. Under the court's voluntary sentencing guidelines, Smoke will likely face up to seven years of imprisonment on the obstruction charge, up to two years on the felony threats charge, and a discretionary sentence on the contempt charge. Smoke will also face fines of up to \$10,000.

According to the government's evidence, on February 22, 2011, at approximately 11:25 a.m., Smoke argued with his child's mother over the telephone. During this argument, he threatened the victim, telling her that he was armed and would shoot everyone in the house. Two Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) officers, who had reported to the home on East Capitol Street SE in response to a prior domestic disturbance, were in the room with the victim and her family and heard Smoke make the threat over a speaker in the telephone.

Smoke was arrested later that day and charged with threats to do bodily harm. The next day, he was ordered by the Court to stay away from his child's mother and to refrain from having contact with her. Despite the order, he called the victim and tried to persuade her to tell the government that she wanted to drop the case. He also called the victim on other dates, in contempt of the court's order to stay away from her.

In announcing the plea, U.S. Attorney Machen commended MPD Detective Sabrina Young, and Officers David Tucker and Travis Gray of the Sixth District, who investigated the case. He also expressed his appreciation to Paralegal Jason Manuel and Legal Assistant Charmonique

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Price, who prepared the case for indictment, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Mervin A. Bourne, Jr., who indicted and prosecuted the case.

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